



EVERY TUESDAY

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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PRICE THREEPENCE

Finding Work For Will o' the Wisp

**LIGHTING OUR HOMES WITH THE
"GAS WITH A TERRIBLE TEMPER"**

METHANE, flickering "Will o' the Wisp" of the marshlands, the chief constituent of the dreaded fire-damp in mines, is beginning to replace coal as a source of heat and power. It is already used on a large scale in Russia, and it was announced recently that Imperial Chemical Industries have acquired the right to search for this natural gas in a large area of North Yorkshire, where the company have important industrial plant.

Methane is a gas with the chemical formula of CH_4 ; and other names by which it is known are marsh gas—because it is produced through the decomposition of vegetable matter in marshes, ponds, and bogs—and natural gas, which escapes into the air when oil wells are being tapped.

The Russians have been the first to exploit methane on a large scale, although natural gas

has long been used in many parts of Canada and U.S.A. It was recently announced that Lenin-grad is now served by a new heating and power system using natural gas which has been piped from the Caucasian oilfields. This system already extends over large areas of Russia and Russian-occupied Europe. It was started during the war when Moscow was isolated from the coalfields of the Don Basin. Engineers then tapped the gases which lie above the great underground lakes of oil in the Caucasus and used them to heat and light factories and homes.

The scheme has now been extended to many other cities, including Kiev, and the Russians claim that this city alone is now saving annually one million tons of Donetsk coal, half a million tons of wood fuel, 10,000 tons of peat, and a vast quantity of petroleum products.

There is little doubt that
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With a Flick of His Whip

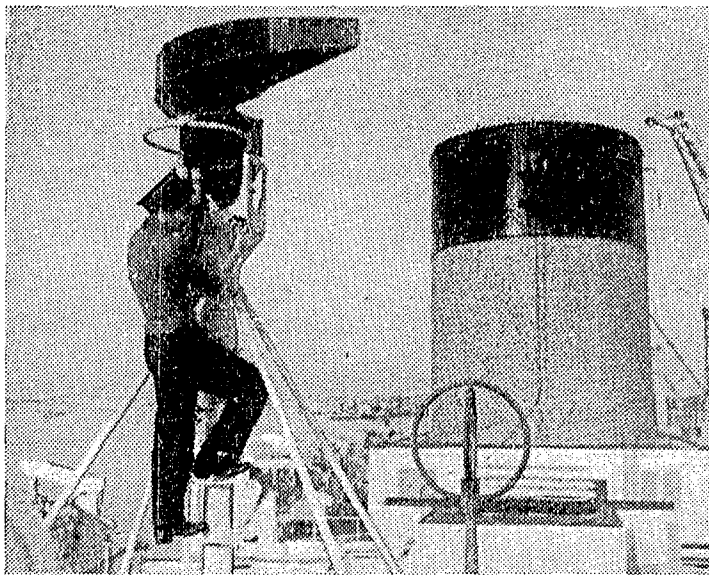
AN Aboriginal drover who assisted in the recent American-Australian scientific expedition through Arnhem Land in Northern Australia was so skilful with his stockwhip that he was able to catch, alive and unharmed, most of the species of birds which exist in that wild, tropical country.

On a given sign from the ornithologist, the drover's stock-whip went out in a flash, and curled round the bird's beak. The rest was easy.

Altogether the scientists brought back some 850 birds. Among them was an egret, not previously seen in Australia, and certain species of pigeons not seen anywhere else in the world for centuries.

The collection will be on show in Washington; but Australia will have back every specimen of which there is no duplicate, and all the new species.

A LINER'S EYE



A seaman cleans the radar scanner of the new 28,000-ton Union-Castle liner Edinburgh Castle, which recently went into service on the South Africa run.

THE POWER OF A SUNSPOT

DURING an outbreak of sunspots recently, wireless and telegraphic circuits were seriously affected, and compass needles jerked irregularly. Telephone bells rang when no one was calling, and even electric lights flickered.

This was due to the gigantic earth currents set up from the sunspots. From the centre of a

sunspot a great stream of electrons shoots out, crosses the intervening space between the Sun and the Earth, and impinges on the Earth. The Earth and the electrons being in motion relative to each other, this induces electric currents in the Earth's crust.

A physicist named Ferrers has calculated the density of these currents during an average sunspot. In electrical engineering we are accustomed to deal in amperes in units, tens, or, very rarely, in hundreds. Even a lightning flash represents only a few hundreds of amperes. Yet the Earth currents set up by the electrons from the Sun may amount to as much as 100,000 amperes in an average sunspot, rising to very much higher values for intense or large spots. This surging tide of electricity ebbs and flows in an irregular fashion, beginning some 36 hours after the eruption, and coinciding with displays of the aurora borealis in northern latitudes. It is thought that it may have something to do with the weather, though studies are not far advanced enough for us to state just what the connection is.

Yellow is Bad For the Blues

GOING on an air-trip? Well, even if you did not eat too many mince pies at Christmas you may be air-sick if your plane is decorated in yellow. That is the finding of several air lines after investigations to determine which colours aggravate air-sickness. Blue and green have least effect on travellers.

IN CHRISTMAS PASS

A MEMORIAL to Kingsley Fairbridge, founder of the Fairbridge Farm Schools, is to be erected in a small garden at the top of Christmas Pass, overlooking Umtali in Southern Rhodesia. The statue will take the form of a boy of 12 gazing over the whole panorama of Umtali. When he was 12 Kingsley Fairbridge camped in Rhodesia, "dragging Dad's survey chain," as he said.

AULD LANG SYNE

*Its Scottish Words
and English Tune*

WHEREVER Britons congregate throughout the world Auld Lang Syne is the song they sing, and most of all do they sing it at this season of reunion. Most people regard it as entirely a Scots' song, but it was an Englishman who composed the familiar tune to which the words are sung. He was William Shield, who was born at Whickham, in Durham, on March 5, 1748.

Now, a song collector, George Thompson, regularly sent tunes to Robert Burns, asking him to write poems for them, and Burns wrote two versions to this tune. The song first appeared in Scottish Airs published in 1799, but the tune is to be found in Shield's opera Rosina, first produced at Covent Garden in 1782.

William Shield was a famous figure in music in the days of George III. Losing his father, a teacher of singing, when very young, William was apprenticed to a boat-builder. His talent for music was early shown, and Charles Avison, organist of Newcastle, took him as a pupil, and introduced him to the Italian Giardini, who later brought him to London, where he spent 20 years in the orchestra of King's Theatre, and composed many operas for Covent Garden.

In 1817 Shield was appointed Master of Music to King George III; when he died in 1829 he was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Shield's many operas have long been forgotten, but the simple air wedded to the poem by Robert Burns will live as long as the British race endures.

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YOUTH RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR

1948, YEAR OF EFFORT

THE year 1948 is ending with the people of Britain still struggling against difficulties, yet not without confidence that better times lie ahead. Certainly 1948 has been a year of great and unbroken industrial effort and has seen very considerable changes in many branches of our industrial and social life.

Above all, the passing year has been a year of nationalisation. Railways, road transport, gas, and electricity were taken over by the State, in addition to the coal-mines nationalised in 1947.

The establishment of a national health service of vast scope and the enlarged National Insurance scheme to protect us all against the vagaries of life have also been of great importance in Britain's social life.

The nationalisation measures were some of the most controversial introduced by the Government in the lifetime of the present Parliament. But, as is customary in true democracies, the minority in Parliament submitted to the will of the majority and they became Law.

This, however, does not apply to the Bill for the nationalisation of the steel industry, which involves far deeper issues.

Food Outlook

Not all economic matters were subjects of such strife in 1948. Certain problems like food and textile rationing, and the export and productivity drives were a common concern of all parties, and indeed all citizens.

Although the year brought no improvement but rather the prospect of a reduction in our meat supply, the picture of our food position is not all black. Bread and potato rationing have been abolished, and so has the rationing of jam. There is a slightly bigger sugar and fat ration, and the cheaper sorts of sweets will be available without rationing.

Footwear is now available without coupons and the textile situation is somewhat easier. Next week we shall have bigger and better newspapers. The coal production is on the whole satisfactory and the export targets for 1948 have already been reached.

It is often said that 1948 has been a year of transition. There is, in the opinion of many experts, a deep significance in that. It means that if the passing year has been difficult for individuals that difficulty was mainly due to the nation's tremendous effort in building the foundations of a better future. By "better future" the economist means more consumer goods and better services of all kinds.

Trade Expansion

Before the last war we had the advantage of the steady flow of interest from foreign investments, which helped us to buy meat, eggs, paper for bigger newspapers, and so on in quantities which met all demands. Now, with our investments gone, we have to find other means of obtaining them. We must expand our export trade to get the necessary foreign exchange.

Now, to produce enough for both the export and the home markets we must have new factories and new and better machinery. This takes not only time but also a good slice off the national "cake"—that is, the sum total of goods which are to be distributed among all of us. In the past year not less than 20 per cent of the national in-

come was used for capital investments to build our "better future."

Only when these investments "mature," as the saying goes, shall we have sufficient quantities of those goods still rationed.

The fact that 1948 has been a year of transition means also that we are not yet out of the economic wood. There can be little doubt, however, that national self-denial now is the surest way of putting our country on its feet again.

Fastest to Australia

A new liner, the *Orcades*, which will reach Australia from Britain in 27 days instead of the 36 days of pre-war ships, is now on her maiden voyage out.

She was built by Vickers-Armstrongs. Her designed speed was 22½ knots, but on two trial runs she achieved an average speed of 24½ knots. Her gross tonnage is 28,164, and she is 709 feet long.

She has a paddling pool, a sand pit, and a playroom containing a miniature ship's bridge.

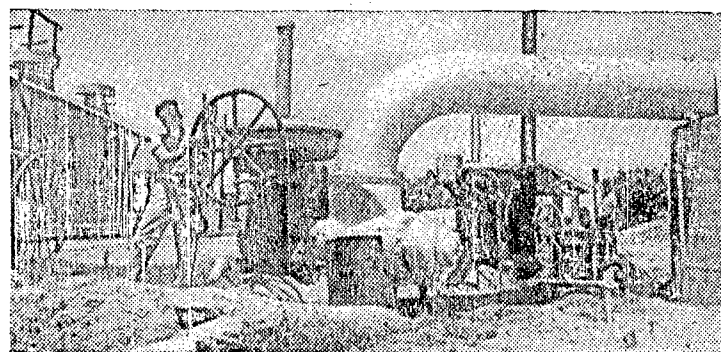
She belongs to the Orient Line and replaces another ship of the same name lost during the war.

FINDING WORK FOR

Continued from page 1

methane is one of the world's greatest natural resources remaining to be tapped. Chemists state that as much as ten million cubic feet a day runs to waste from the exhaust fans of the average coalmine, and it is impossible to estimate the amount that flares away day and night in the American oilfields. It escapes from marshes and ditches, factory chimneys and sewers.

At some sewage farms it is collected and used instead of



A 24-inch pipe at a natural gas plant at Arkansas, USA

petrol for driving municipal vehicles. At a cost of £85 each, a fleet of vehicles belonging to Croydon Corporation were converted to methane, with the saving of 85,000 gallons of petrol a year. This methane is literally produced from rubbish, for it is given off by "digesting," or decomposing, sewage. In purifying it valuable deposits of sulphur are obtained.

Chemists have estimated that if properly equipped the average sewage works could produce 1,350,000 cubic feet of methane per day, and that with some slight adjustment to the burners in domestic gas-cookers it could be used instead of coal-gas.

Another important use for methane is as a raw material for

Tomorrow's Citizens

Young supporters of the United Nations are meeting this week (December 28-31) at Westminster Central Hall, where the annual lectures called Tomorrow's Citizens are being given by the Council for Education in World Citizenship.

The speakers include Don Salvador de Madariaga, the Spanish author, Sir Stafford Cripps, Lord Woolton, Dr Gilbert Murray, O.M., and Dr Arnold Toynbee.

On Thursday morning young people themselves will take the platform and report upon different aspects of the work of the United Nations, a new and most welcome feature.

Meanwhile, a fortunate British schoolboy and girl will be on their way by air to the United States to represent their country at the High School Forum organised by the New York newspaper, *Herald-Tribune*. Together with young delegates from many other countries they will spend nearly three months in the U.S., staying in American homes, visiting American schools, and broadcasting to the American people.

Early in 1949 the *Daily Mail*, co-operating with the C.E.W.C., is organising a similar scheme for Britain. Schoolboys and girls from 15 countries are to be brought here to spend nine weeks among us.

WILL O' THE WISP

producing carbon black—a substance which is in very great demand and for which we have to pay precious dollars. Carbon black is used as a "filler" in the rubber industry—that is, it is added to rubber compounds to impart, among other things, hard-wearing and non-slip properties. Most tyres consist of 30 per cent carbon black, which is also an essential material for the manufacture of printing inks.

But there is another side to the character of methane gas besides its usefulness. Miners call it "the

WORLD NEWS REEL

ALL CAN HELP. The United Nations Appeal for Children (Unac) is to be continued for another year and widened in scope.

The *Lacock Abbey* copy of *Magna Carta* has been returned after being on loan to the Library of Congress, Washington, for two years.

BIG BROTHERS. Travelling to Australia in the *Ormonde* are 25 youths who are settling in the Dominion under the care of the Big Brother Movement. Over 2000 boys have emigrated from Britain under this scheme.

A law prohibiting the manufacture or sale of margarine in Canada has been over-ruled by the Supreme Court, and many Canadians will be able to taste margarine for the first time in their lives. The law was made 62 years ago when margarine was considered harmful.

Rhodesia Railways are building a model African township near Bulawayo for their African employees and families. The town will consist of over 3000 houses and will accommodate 9000 people.

In the Orange Free State the first successful experiment in rain-making was carried out during a recent drought. Dry ice

was scattered from aircraft on to clouds and heavy rain resulted.

WORLD'S SMALLEST? A camera recently made in Austria looks like a wrist-watch, weighs just over an ounce, and takes a picture of 3 x 4 millimetres.

The Transjordan Parliament recently agreed that Arab Palestine should be unified with Transjordan under the sovereignty of King Abdullah; provided that the union is carried out at the proper time by constitutional methods, and in accordance with the principle of self-determination.

C. PADS. In the match at Johannesburg between the MCC and Transvaal, wicket-keeper Evans caught Rowan with his pads. Rowan touched the ball and Evans trapped it between his pads just above his ankles.

Britain has loaned 2000 tons of fats to Austria at the request of American authorities. Austria was short owing to a dockers' strike in America.

FAMILY OF TOWNS. The Mayor of Salisbury, Wiltshire, recently sent greetings to 21 other Salisburys—one in Southern Rhodesia, one in the West Indies, 13 in America, four in Australia, and two in Canada.

HOME NEWS REEL

BIRTHDAY BELLS. On the 20th birthday of Freda Hirkett, a church bellringer of Burnham, Bucks, other girls rang a peal for her.

Because of accidents at the cross-roads of Little Snoring, the Norfolk Highways Committee have been told by the Ministry of Transport that they can have a "staggering" scheme costing about £5000.

A pike weighing 35½ lbs, the biggest taken in England since 1878, was caught recently at Heigham, Norfolk.

A driver on London's Underground Railway, John Victor Harriids, aged 50, has been awarded the Edward Medal for risking death by electrocution in order to rescue a baby that had fallen beside the live rail at Harlesden station.

SHIVER STUDY. Early this year a force of warships, led by the aircraft-carrier *Vengeance*, is to make a cruise in the Arctic to study the effects of very cold weather on personnel, weapons, and materials.

Liverpool University has received from Miss A. L. Bulley, of Ness, Wirral, the gift of Mickwell Brow, the family home, with 60 acres of land and an endowment of £75,000. The gardens are famous and are to remain open to the public.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

ANTARCTIC EXHIBITION. Opening on Thursday this week, an Antarctic Exhibition is to be held on Captain Scott's famous ship *Discovery*, and will remain open every weekday throughout January. Admission is one shilling; Scouts and Guides in uniform half-price. *Discovery*, now a Sea Scout training ship, is moored off the Thames Embankment, near Waterloo Bridge.

When a plane crashed on Snowdon last July, prompt and valuable assistance was rendered in most difficult circumstances by Rover Scout Wynn-Jones of

Bangor. He has received a Letter of Commendation from the Chief Scout.

A Letter of Commendation has been sent by the Chief Scout to Senior Scout John Hurlstone of the 1st Harrow Weald Group for bravely trying to recover the body of his Assistant Scoutmaster, lost in an effort to save a boy from heavy seas at Littlehampton.

SCOUT JAMBOREE. The Pan-Pacific Jamboree opens at Wonga Park, near Melbourne, on Wednesday this week. It will be attended by 10,000 Scouts from the Pacific and South-East Asia.

Tale of a Travelling Cat

MAMA is a South African dock-side cat who lives among the boxes and bales piled high in Port Elizabeth harbour, and one day decided to go for a stroll on board a vessel in the harbour.

The ship, Lake Chilco, sailed away—with Mama on board. She became quite a pet of the officers and crew, and wherever the ship called at Canadian ports she was sure to be seen on the bridge.

At last the vessel started on its return journey, but when it

reached South Africa it bypassed Port Elizabeth and went on to Durban instead. Mama thereupon walked down the gangway, along the docks, and boarded the City of Exeter, southbound for Port Elizabeth.

When the City of Exeter reached Port Elizabeth, Mama was the first to scamper down the gangway to the quayside. And all the other dock cats crowded round, presumably to hear the tales of a traveller, home again after a 12,000-mile voyage!

Traders From a Little-Known Land

THE first trade mission ever to be sent from Tibet has visited this country and brought special greetings of friendship to the King from the young Dalai Lama, the Regent, and his Cabinet. Led by Trepon Shakabpa, the Tibetan Secretary of Finance, the mission left Tibet over a year ago, and has already visited India, China, the United States, and France. Among the wares they have to offer are interesting items like musk furs and yak tails. They on their part require textiles and agricultural machinery.

Tibet has for many years, of course, been a little-known and largely self-contained country. This mission may indicate a desire to play a bigger part in world affairs.

THE KHAKI DAYS AHEAD

SENIOR boys in Surrey Secondary Schools will hardly be "raw recruits" when they join the Army. A proposal by the War Office to send officers and NCOs to schools to explain the terms of the 18-month conscription period has been accepted by the Surrey Education Committee.

The main reason for the tour is to dispel the impression that Service life is hard, and that it is something that has to be "done and finished with." The boys will be encouraged to ask questions about Service life, about the different trades, and especially about the prospects of an Army career.

A similar scheme for girls has been proposed.

FOR CHURCH MUSIC

It is 21 years since the late Sir Sydney Nicholson founded the Royal School of Church Music, and a fund has now been established in his memory to further the work of the school. The Archbishop of Canterbury, its President, in establishing the fund, spoke of the great contribution which the founder had made in improving music in churches up and down the country, and said that he did a work of immense importance "in the combined sphere of religion and culture."

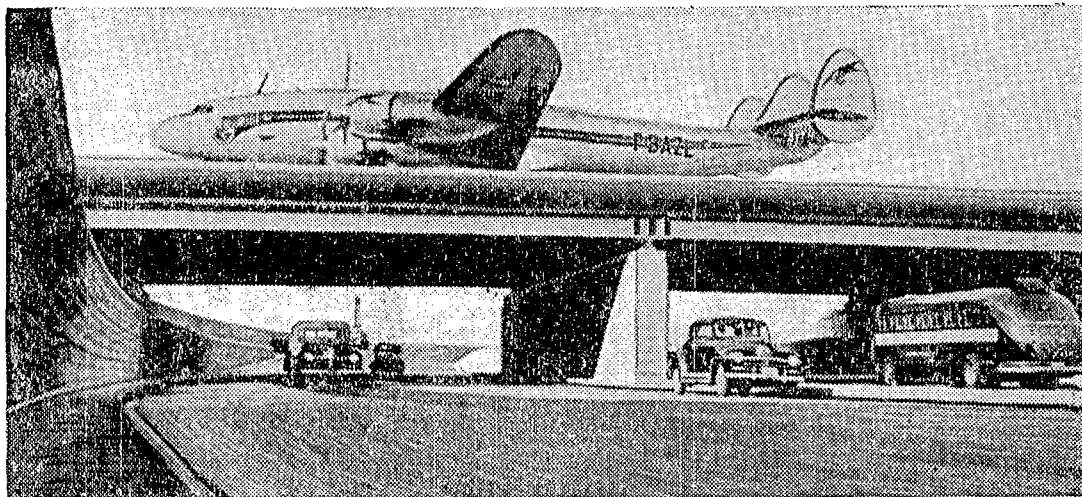
The Boys' Best Bob's Worth

THAT fascinating show, The Schoolboy's Own Exhibition, is open from January 1 to 15 at the New Horticultural Hall, London, and its organisers justifiably claim that it "is still the finest bob's worth for boys of school age."

Their imagination will be fired by a model of a space ship that could fly to the Moon. It is Warnett Kenned's brilliant conception of a space ship shown against a background of interstellar space.

Among other enthralling exhibits are: An electrically operated gauge "O" model railway, consisting of 500 feet of track laid with the latest flat-bottom rails; models of How to Make Gas—And it's By-Products; and How to Generate Electricity; and A Destroyer's Engine Room. A wonder of our times is illustrated in Super-sonics Simplified.

There will be competitions with prizes that include trips down a mine.



Plane Bridge

At the new Idlewild Airport, New York, a Constellation aircraft taxis across a bridge while traffic speeds along the roads underneath.

Old Machines Earn New Dollars

A WELL-KNOWN Nottinghamshire business is celebrating its century. It is the Hucknall firm of Rhodes Brothers, which makes fine knitted wool shawls and mohair scarves. The founder, Henry Rhodes, began in the same premises in 1848, and before that his father had made stockings in the district.

Eighty per cent of this firm's output is exported to earn dollars, and some of the hand-frames still producing these knitted goods have been in the factory all through its 100 years.

PASTURES NEW

ENOUGH grass seed to sow ten acres of new pasture land has been sent by the New Zealand Department of Agriculture to a farmer in Oregon, a Pacific coast state of the U.S.A. If trials with this grass seed are a success large shipments of New Zealand grass seed are likely to go to the United States for sowing in regions where the climate is similar to that of New Zealand.

Grass is the world's most important crop, and seed from the grass that supports New Zealand's splendid flocks and herds is sent to many parts of the world.

Planes and a Cathedral

THE aerodrome at Chartres in France is to be moved because it is too near the famous cathedral. This beautiful 13th-century cathedral still has all its windows and statues intact. The windows were removed for safety during the war, but no other damage was done though another church in the city and a library of medieval manuscripts were destroyed.

It is good to know that this ancient treasure is to be protected against damage by the most modern form of transport.

ROSES DOWN UNDER

NOVEMBER is the best month for roses in New Zealand, and 800 different kinds of roses, old and new, were blooming in that month in the national rose collection at Massey Agricultural College, near Palmerston North.

The rose-growers of this college use the airmail service to introduce new varieties from England. Cuttings posted from England reach the college rose garden a week later.

Four years of hard work by the gardening students and their instructors have made the college rose collection the finest in New Zealand.

A WALL BY THE THAMES

CORNISH stone is coming to London to extend a Thames-side wall.

Some 4000 tons of stone will be required to add 1700 feet to the County Hall wall to extend it as far as Waterloo Bridge. It is to be completed in time for the Festival of Britain in 1951. The stone will come from quarries in Penryn, Callington, and on Bodmin Moor. Stone for the present wall, built 35 years ago, actually came from this same source.

It will be six months before the first loads of dressed granite begin to reach London.

Newcomer



A recent arrival at the London Zoo is this baby alligator, a gift from the New York Zoo.

Youth on the River

AN unusual type of boys' club will be opened shortly at Deptford, London. It is the Deptford and Greenwich Boys' River Club, and their headquarters is a converted Thames barge. A second barge will be used as a floating dormitory for summer holidays on seaside rivers, and the boys have also two 16-foot cutters.

The boys, numbering 20 at the moment, will spend one evening each week at their headquarters learning seamanship and river craft, another will be spent on the river in the cutters, and a third evening will be given to learning how to swim, aided by river-police officers.

The boys are to make the barge "shipshape" by painting and providing fittings and furniture, much of which will be made by themselves.

The barge, rechristened Golden Hind II, will be anchored in Deptford Creek, near where Sir Francis Drake moored his famous Golden Hind.

U.N.'s THIRD LANGUAGE

AT present the so-called "working languages" of the United Nations Assembly are English and French, but another is now likely to be added, the use of Spanish having been accepted in principle by the General Assembly. It was proposed by seven Latin-American nations and the Philippines.

The Brakes Failed

NOR long ago a large bird collided with a Central African Airways Viking aircraft over Northern Rhodesia. The plane flew on, however, and everything seemed to be in order.

It was not until the plane had landed at Ndola that adventures began for the passengers and crew. The bird had severed the machine's brake cable and in consequence the pilot was unable to stop the aircraft as it ran speedily along the runway on its wheels. It went beyond the runway and continued swiftly over stony ground. Directly in its path was a fire tender, but luckily the driver was in the vehicle and, starting his engine, he was able to drive out of the way just in time.

The runaway plane now plunged into the bush surrounding the airfield and the passengers saw they were hurtling towards an enormous anthill, but the plane was now losing momentum and it stopped only three feet from the ants' mountain.



Some of the "heads" in a London pantomime

Family Group

THE WORTHY MEMORIAL

A MINOR mystery in medical science may soon be solved now that scientific research work is about to start on two of the Micronesian Islands in the Pacific Ocean. The authority behind this work is the scientific foundation known as the American Pacific War Memorial, organised in 1946 to translate the war sacrifices of American Servicemen in the Pacific into useful scientific knowledge concerning the islands and their peoples.

The islands chosen for this unique war memorial are Saipan and Koror, two of the larger of the 2000 scattered islets which Japan ruled through a League of Nations mandate, and which are now administered by America under a United Nations trusteeship.

The particular mystery involved may lead to important medical discoveries, for it concerns the fact that the island of Saipan, unlike other islands in the group, has no malaria.

Lack of Information

Scientific information about the Micronesian Islands is meagre because the Japanese discouraged visitors during the early phase of their administration, and later completely closed the area to all outsiders. Koror Town, on the island of Koror, was the capital of Japan's pre-war island empire of the mid-Pacific, as well as being an important naval base and shipping centre for the export of bauxite and phosphate of the Palau Group.

Saipan, some 900 miles to the north-east, was developed by the Japanese into a large sugar-cane producing area. After the war both islands were found to be heavily over-populated with Japanese labourers and officials, all of whom have since been repatriated.

Spanish Influence

The native peoples of these islands are chiefly Chamorros, a mixture of Indonesian and Spanish and Philippine Tagalog strains, whose present-day culture and Spanish-type architecture are legacies from the time when Spain controlled the islands.

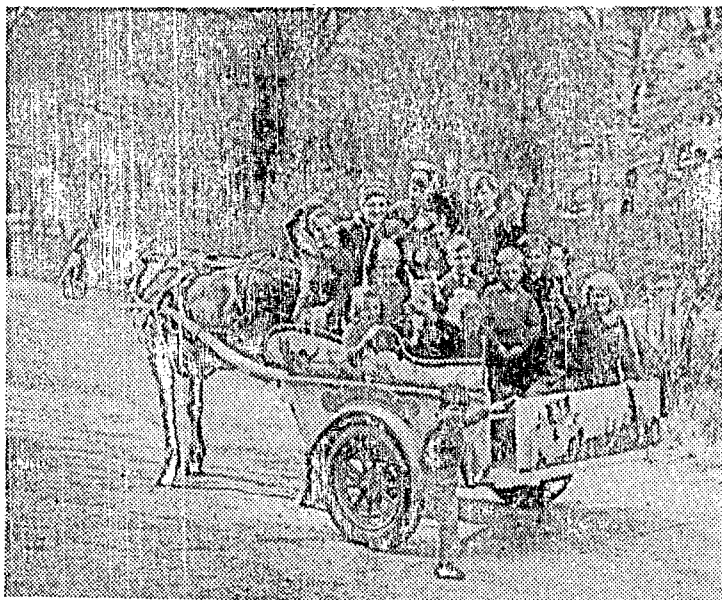
The research work is intended to cover all major fields, and if this initial investigation is successful it is planned to extend the Memorial to include other islands in the Micronesian Group.

WORKERS' PARADE



A radar operator who "talks" ferry boats across the Thames at Tilbury in foggy weather.

All Aboard the Primrose Special!



THESE young Australians, patients in a Children's Convalescent Cottage in the mountains east of Melbourne, are setting out for their weekly ride with Auntie Lucy in the "Primrose Farm Special."

Aunt Lucy is Mrs Murray, who has a farm near the Convalescent Cottage. She and her friend Miss Eileen Calvert had the idea of getting a horse float to take the young patients for rides because many of them are rheumatic cases and cannot walk far. The float is drawn by a gentle old brown horse which answers to the name of Mickie.

It has "Primrose Farm" lettered in primroses above blue mudguards, and all round its sides are pictures of animals on the farm. There are Toastie the ginger cat, Molly the cow, Sammy the collie-dog, Mick and Bessie the horses, a number of bunnies and chickens, and one solitary snail.

So popular are these rides in the gay horse float that half the children from the Cottage follow it in Miss Calvert's car in order to ride home in the float. The Primrose Special is indeed far more exciting to ride in than any ordinary car!

THE COST OF RUST

MORE than £40,000,000 is spent every year in Britain to protect iron and steel from rust, and the world's losses due to rust are estimated at £500,000,000 a year.

It is now known that much of this damage is caused by minute bacteria which, through inducing chemical action, cause the corrosion of oil storage tanks and buried iron and steel pipes, piles, and shafts.

The rusting of iron in damp soil depends on an electro-chemical action which can occur only when oxygen is present, and for a long time it puzzled scientists to note that rusting still occurred when an iron pipe was buried in heavy clay, which virtually contains no oxygen. Then it was discovered that in the clay, and in most soils, are certain bacteria which, though it would be impossible for them to live without oxygen, could release all they needed from sulphates dissolved in the soil. And the oxygen

which they manufactured for their own use was also causing corrosion in the iron.

The action of the bacteria on the sulphate produces hydrogen sulphide, and this reacts with the dissolved iron to produce iron sulphide which is black in colour. This makes microbe corrosion easy to detect, because a black stain appears in the soil surrounding the iron.

To combat the alarming losses due to rust, the Chemical Research Laboratory of the Department of Scientific Research recently published a review of existing information on protecting iron and steel from corrosion. It was stated that protection against corrosion involved 100 tons of paint for a 10,000-ton cruiser, and that the fuel consumption of a warship could be increased by 50 per cent as the result of six months' fouling in temperate waters.

Iron Ore From Sierra Leone

THOSE to whom the name of Sierra Leone conjures up a picture of waving palms on a tropical shore will be surprised to learn of the flourishing iron-mining industry which is growing up in this British Colony. Yet figures recently published show that Sierra Leone provided Britain with 48 per cent of its total iron ore imports from Commonwealth sources during 1947.

The iron deposits now being worked were discovered by Major Junner in 1926, though work did not begin until 1933. Some idea of the progress made can be gathered from the fact that while only 24,000 tons were exported in 1933, nearly 700,000 tons were exported last year.

At the present rate of work the deposits are expected to last for 50 years. The ore is of very high quality, and is particularly suitable for smelting by the Bessemer process. A railway carries the ore a distance of 50 miles to the port of Pepel, where a modern conveyor-belt system loads it on ship-board at the rate of 1000 tons an hour.

Some 2300 workers are employed in the mines. These workers are well looked after and receive a ration of rice in addition to their pay. It is considered that the development of the Colony's new industry will lead to a rise in the standard of living, including the provision of better social services.

The Editor's Table

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

A HAPPY NEW YEAR! Once again the old, old wish is a new wish; and, as ever, the best wish. Down the long years this greeting has warmed human hearts, and linked all mankind. It is a familiar greeting in the original friendly family sense.

And what will make it a Happy, New Year for us—this year A.D. 1949 in which the twentieth century will draw near the halfway mark? What do we all hope for in this new year?

In the New Year we expect to see Britain draw ahead still further along the road of recovery—with mines, factories, farms, and shipyards all contributing to an even bigger volume of trade, replenishing the world's store, and balancing Britain's account book. That is the Happy New Year we all wish our country.

BUT it can be a Happy New Year, too, for all mankind. Skies are often dark, and the future may look grim, but peace is still the most longed-for wish of the world's millions. May this New Year bring that wish nearer to realisation.

Every new year means the rebirth of hope and confidence for all. A fresh page opens in the book of life, unstained and unsoiled, and we all have a fresh chance to be what in our best moments we dream of being.

This is the dawn of a new year, bringing with it a fresh range of all the hopes that spring eternal in the human heart.

OUR wish is the age-old wish that crystallises all our hopes—A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Good Neighbours

RATEPAYERS are apt to think of local authorities as soulless bodies in which any spark of imagination is quenched lest it set fire to some dry forms or schedules.

But there is a moving item of news from Hastings, where a garden for the blind is to be planted with flowers chosen for their scent, and with labels in Braille. From Rochester, too, we learn that Old Age Pensioners and invalids are to have library books delivered to their doors.

Such kindly, human little actions do credit to those who sponsor them, and bring a fine spirit of Good Neighbourliness to the communities in which they are promoted.

IN THE BAG

IT seems that there can be too much production. The Australian Minister of Reconstruction says that the handbag industry in his country has reached the stage where it could provide every Australian woman with a new handbag every week.

What the fair Australians find to put in all those handbags is a mystery equalled only by the remarkable contents of small boys' pockets.

GOOD RESOLUTION

BEGINNING with next week issue there will be not only a bigger C N but more copies will be available, as stated in the announcement on page 1.

To enable your newsagent to obtain sufficient supplies, it is just as necessary as ever to give him a regular order, for he will not be able to return to the publishers any unsold copies, and so will be unable to cater with certainty for casual customers.

Will you therefore please make a New Year's Good Resolution to give your newsagent an order to deliver the C N regularly; and will you also tell your friends?

School For Mothers

AT Plymouth an old Victorian house has been opened as a school for mothers. This means that mothercraft has now become a job which can be learned.

Some of the mothers at the school have been those who have been charged with neglect of their children, but here, under the care of the Salvation Army, they are learning how to love the job of being mothers. They stay for a minimum of three months.

One of the mothers had never seen a table laid properly before she arrived at the school. She had always depended on an upturned drawer with meals consisting of tea and chips. Another had had 15 children, but had never been able to bring up a single one of them properly. None of the mothers had ever been helped to plan their shopping or spend their household money profitably.

Plymouth is beginning a new venture in the noblest profession of all; its methods may usefully be copied in many other parts of the country.

JUST AN IDEA

As La Bruyère wrote, *The most sensible of all pleasures consists in promoting the pleasure of others.*

Under the E



PETER PUCK WANTS TO KNOW

If a free kick is sometimes costly

A FLAT-DWELLER complains that the tenants underneath him say he makes too much noise. He is above reproach.

THERE is lack of sympathy between musical and unmusical people. A bar of music.

GRAMOPHONE record libraries have been set up in many boroughs. With enough records to go round.

IN Buenos Aires, ice-workers who struck for higher wages in the midst of a heat wave were advised to keep cool.

THINGS SAID

ONCE more the United Nations has shown that it is the most powerful influence for peace in the world.

Dr Evatt, President of U N Assembly

ON the whole, the National Coal Board is non-political. I think that such an organisation should be taken right out of party politics.

The Minister of Fuel

I do not think it is a bad thing for a young soldier to peel potatoes now and again. It gives him, perhaps, a home-from-home outlook.

Lord Wilson

THE decrease in drunkenness in this country is one of the things of which we can be most proud.

Sir D. Maxwell Fyfe, M P

PRINCE CHARLES



The baby son of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh was given the names of Charles Philip Arthur George at his christening in Buckingham Palace. This picture is the first of many which the C N hopes to be privileged to bring to its readers showing Prince Charles as he grows to manhood.

NEW YEAR WISH

MAY the New Year be a happy one to you, happy to many more whose happiness depends on you! So may each year be happier than the last, and not the meanest of our brethren or sisterhood debarred their rightful share in what our great Creator formed them to enjoy.

Charles Dickens

Editor's Table

A CHEMIST is advertising four bottles of perfumes all different. Shoppers will buy them all the same.

□

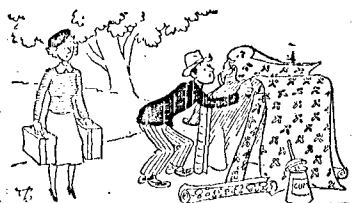
MEN with bushy eyebrows are usually very determined. They stick out.

□

A CERTAIN school says it is proud of the boys it turns out. Not of those who are kept in.

□

OUR meat ration may be cut again. Then we won't have to cut it when we eat it.



A MAN has won a prize of six rolls of wallpaper. Now all he wants is a house.

Test Standard For Musicians?

MR EUGENE GOOSSENS, who has flown from summer sunshine to his native London's gloom to be the B B C Symphony Orchestra's guest conductor this month, has added to his fame as the conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra since 1947. Under his baton, writes a C N Australian correspondent, that orchestra has enthralled legions of Australian lovers of classical music, who flock to the Sydney Town Hall to hear his concerts.

It was characteristic of him to declare in a recent speech to Australians that members of his orchestra ought to be as popular and famous as any Test cricketer.

Audacity is evidently as pronounced in his speeches as in his compositions.

THE TRIUMPHS OF ST DUNSTANS

THE annual report of St Dunstons makes fine reading.

In it Sir Ian Fraser describes how some blind men have been helped to own small businesses. These are bought by St Dunstons, and after a blind man has successfully run the business for a few years he is enabled to buy it on easy terms.

The triumph of the blind man is to know that he is a breadwinner, and since 1939 blinded men have been trained to operate semi-automatic machinery, and to work on assembly, packing, and testing jobs in factories. These men have kept their jobs with remarkable success, and there have been no accidents.

Since 1939 St Dunstons has helped war-blinded men of 18 other nationalities. Its achievements have won it the admiration of the world.

Old Year Bells

OF all sounds of all bells (bells, the music nighest bordering upon heaven) most solemn and touching is the peal which rings out the Old Year. I never hear it without a gathering-up of my mind to a concentration of all the images that have been diffused over the past twelvemonth; all I have done or suffered, performed or neglected, in that regretted time. *Charles Lamb*

SENSE OF WONDER

TO me every hour of the light and dark is a miracle, Every cubic inch of space is a miracle, Every square yard of the surface of the earth is spread with the same, Every foot of the interior swarms with the same.

Walt Whitman

THE SUPREME POWER

I HAVE lived for a long time (eighty-one years), and the longer I live the more convincing proof I see of this truth that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it possible that an Empire can live without His aid?

Benjamin Franklin

Shakespeare Was His Hobby

THE second biggest library of its kind in the world, which grew out of a private hoard made by a rich American, is to become a national centre for the study of English civilisation of the 16th and 17th centuries. It is the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, U S A.

Henry Clay Folger was president of the Standard Oil Company, but, for a successful business man, he had an unusual hobby—and unbusinesslike ways in pursuing it. He was passionately interested in Shakespeare and in his life and times, so he collected all the books he could find connected with Shakespeare.

Instead, however, of keeping his valuable volumes in orderly bookshelves in his library, he stowed them away in all sorts of odd corners, or stored them in packing cases and boxes piled one on top of another.

His collection grew to 70,000 volumes, and was one of the finest Shakespearean collections in the world. It included 50 out of about 200 known copies of the First Folio edition of Shakespeare's plays published in 1623, and a number of the plays issued in quarto size.

Yet he made no catalogue of his possessions, and if some scholar asked to see a particular book, Mr Folger, though willing enough to let him study it, had often not the foggiest idea of where it was. Learned men complained that if Henry Folger bought a precious book, that meant it had disappeared. It was even said that he acquired his vast collection for the mere pleasure of its possession. That was unfair, however, for Henry Folger studied his books and himself wrote much on the subject of Shakespeare.

Then he surprised everyone by announcing that he would give

his splendid collection to the world and would build a library in Washington fit to hold it. He bought the land for the library and planned its beautiful interior, including a little room where he and his wife could continue their studies. But before it was completed he died, in 1930. In his will he left his collection and an endowment fund for it to the American nation under the trustees of Amherst College, the famous Congregationalist College. The Folger Library cost £400,000 to build and was opened in 1932.

It is a lovely shrine standing on Capitol Hill, a stately companion of Washington's other great buildings. On its walls are reliefs of scenes from Shakespeare's plays—Macbeth and the witches, Lear in the storm, and so on. Formal gardens surround it, and in one of these a statue of Puck peeps out from behind a yew.

Designed and furnished in Tudor style, the library has a window depicting the Seven Ages of Man.

Since his death the Folger Shakespeare Library has acquired books on all subjects printed between 1475 and 1640, a collection second only to that in the British Museum. Here, too, are 250,000 old playbills, 50,000 manuscripts, 3000 old prompt-books, and at least eight books printed by Caxton.

This beautiful place will make a noble centre for the study of a Golden Age which must ever remain an inspiration to Britain and America alike.

OLYMPIC TRACK FOR SCHOOLBOYS

THERE will be many proud young athletes in the East of London, for they will be running on part of the track used for the Olympic Games.

Over 400 tons of special material was used to lay the Olympic running track at Wembley, and now the Eton Manor Boys' Club have purchased part of it, enough to cover the top surface of their own quarter-mile-track at Leyton.

The new track will be used by the athletes of several local schools in the Hackney Borough area, while certain county junior championships will also be competed for there.

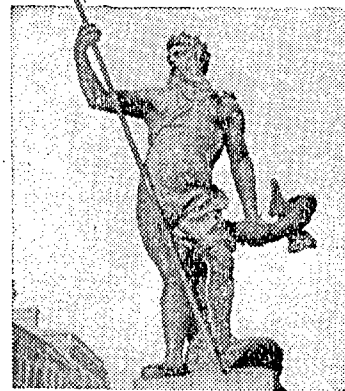
Many wonderful records were set up on the track at Wembley, and thoughts of these brilliant feats should inspire the young athletes of East London to put their best foot forward.



THIS ENGLAND

Big Ben, from Parliament Square, Westminster

BRISTOL'S NEPTUNE



THIS striking figure of Neptune, the Roman sea god, which is admired by all who are familiar with the port of Bristol, is to make its sixth move since it came into existence.

The figure was actually cast by a plumber named Randall and was put up in 1723 at the end of Temple Street. It was then moved to three more positions and was finally brought to Victoria Street in 1872.

Meanwhile, however, its true origin had been forgotten; in fact, a statement that it had been erected in Queen Elizabeth's reign to commemorate the Defeat of the Armada had been printed in 1824 in a history of Bristol. Accordingly, in 1872 an inscription to this effect was attached to the statue. The true facts have since been found out and now Neptune—without the Armada inscription—is to stand at the Bridge Head, appropriately gazing down on the harbour from which Cabot and many another famous seaman set sail.

56 Years on His Toes

"ON the hands down! On the feet hup! Why bless me, boy, your granddad was a more sprightly fellow than you, as I well remember. See, this is how to do it!"

Evidently a school P T instructor speaking—but what's that about granddad, is he joking?

Not at all; for this P T instructor taught the grandfathers of some of the boys at Durham School from which he only retired at the end of last term. He is Mr J. Levesley, 80 years young, who was appointed to the school in 1892—before any of the present masters there were born! He has taught boys physical training under six headmasters.

His is a wonderful record, and a wonderful advertisement too of how exercise keeps one fit.

A CHANGE FOR MR PUNCH

PUNCH is to have an artist as editor for the first time in its long history. "Fougasse" (Cyril Bird), whose delightful sketches everyone enjoys, is succeeding E. V. Knox, who writes under the pen-name of "Evoc" and has been editor since 1932.

Fougasse, who has been art editor for Punch for more than eleven years, is a man of many accomplishments. A brilliant draughtsman, he has published several books, and is also a B Sc, an Associate of King's College, London, and an Associate Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Caronia Comes From Clydeside

ON Tuesday next week the Cunard White Star liner Caronia will begin her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York.

Built at Clydeside, this 34,000-ton ship is the largest liner constructed since the end of the war. Everything known to shipbuilding science has been incorporated in her structure, from the snug, covered-in, electrically-heated crew's nest to the echo-sounding gear on the ship's bottom. The crew's nest is reached by a ladder in the electrically-lighted mast.

As the Caronia speeds across the ocean her echo-sounding gear will register depths and will send impulses to the wheelhouse in which a pencil will draw a graph giving the contours of the sea-bed.

Besides having radar and ship-to-shore radio telephones, Caronia will make her own "weather." In torrid zones cold air will be wafted into cabins; in the Arctic cold warm air will be available.

The Iron Man

By pressing a button in the wheelhouse the captain will be able to segregate any section of the ship. A touch on a button will send impulses to the hydraulically-operated doors, closing them and sealing off that part of the ship when necessary.

If the ship leaves its set course the "iron man" on the bridge will flash a message to a motor at the stern. The motor will cause the rudder to swing over, and at the same time will transmit an "All Right" signal to the "iron man."

Caronia is the last word in artistic layout, with colour schemes blending, and having many beautiful paintings, frosted glass, gold-domed ceilings, and wrought metal gates.

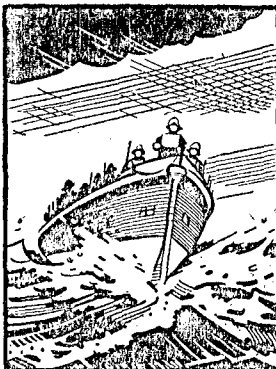
The outer hull is in pale green, and, to add to the ship's streamlined profile, a thick dark green band runs the full length of the shell. Chocolate is the colour below the watermark, and there were many tests to make this barnacle-proof.

Captain D. W. Sorrell will be as proud of his new ship as are the Clydeside men who built her.

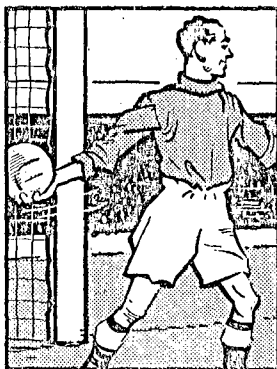
Steps to Sporting Fame



On and off the field, there have been few footballers as popular as big Frank Swift, Manchester City and England goalkeeper.



At one time a Fleetwood lifeboatman, he played soccer for the local clubs. In 1934, four months after making his first appearance for Manchester City, he won a Cup medal at Wembley.



Frank, who was then 19, has been the City's goalkeeper ever since. With a span of 11½ inches, he can pick up a ball with one hand and throw it from goal to half-way line.

Frank Swift



"Uncle Frank" to a host of young admirers, he pays many visits to hospital wards, cheering the children with tales of his experiences. Once he took the entire City team with him.

New Zealand Expands

FROM January 1 New Zealand will be a larger country by reaching out to the remote Tokelau Islands, nearly 2000 miles away to the north. The Dominion will add only six square miles to its territory, and its population will increase by 2000.

A British possession since 1916, the Tokelau Islands have been administered by New Zealand through Western Samoa since 1926, and now they are to become part of New Zealand.

The group consists of three main islands, Fakaofu, Nukunono, and Atafu, all of atoll formation. The area lies about 300 miles north of Samoa. The islands were administered by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, with the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. But they were awkwardly placed from an administrative point of view, and New Zealand was asked to take over and did so in 1926. For the most part, however, the people were governed by their own chiefs.

The people speak a dialect of Samoan, and they are quiet and noted for their hospitality. Their only contact with the outside world is through Apia, their port of entry, by small cutters. Their chief industry is the making of copra; but they also excel at mat weaving and other crafts.

The islands now have their first official postage stamps, through the benevolence of the New Zealand Government.

Marking the Fish

IN January the research vessel *Platessa* will begin a fish-marking experiment in the area Solway Firth, St Bees Head, Morecambe Bay, and the Isle of Man, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The *Platessa*'s crew will mark with a numbered black ebonite button the fish that are caught and will return them to the sea. Fishermen who will catch these fish later will be asked to return them to the Collector of Statistics at the port of landing, with the exact position, time, and method of fishing.

In particular the movements of skate, plaice, and dabs are to be studied.

THE LITTLE LINE'S WORK IS ENDED

ALTHOUGH the closing of the tiny Corris Railway in Montgomeryshire had been contemplated for some time, fate selected the River Dovey to inflict the mortal wound that ended the Little Line's career, writes a correspondent.

The river had silted up, gradually altered course, and crept nearer and nearer until, on August 20, it made the final raid which gouged out great tracts of the permanent way. A recent official announcement says that the line is to remain closed.

The 1 p.m. "Up" Goods was the last train to run over the eight miles 40 chains of 2'3" gauge from Machynlleth to Aberllefenni.

The Little Line, as it is known locally, began modestly as a horse-drawn tramway more than a century ago for the transport of slate from the quarries to the Port of Derwenlas on the banks of the Dovey. In those days the river was in a more harmonious mood.

In 1858 the line passed to a private company, and eventually, after much opposition to the idea, coaches of a primitive type were introduced for the conveyance of passengers in addition to goods and mineral traffic.

The use of the horse as the chief mode of traction was retained until 1880, when steam locomotion was brought into use. Though this little railway con-

tinued to cater chiefly for the transport of slate it now had time to indulge the whims of hosts of passengers.

With what joy and wonder must the lads—big and little—of bygone days have beheld the midget wonder! With what pleasure would they contemplate a trip along the Little Line! Hauled by a chugging, bogie-type engine, they would encounter steep gradients, amble into peaceful valleys, or caress the curves of a shapely hill.

Its appeal to the public was immense, for it is on record that over 70,000 passengers were carried during the half-year ending December 31, 1897. About a quarter of this number were probably workmen employed at the neighbouring quarries. The remaining three-quarters travelled for the sheer joy of it.

In 1930 the line was taken over by the Great Western Railway, but it still retained its individuality. Then in 1931, the Little Line returned to its primary function of conveying goods and minerals only, and finally to a three-day-a-week service. Lack of orders for the quarries and formidable road competition were leaving their mark.

And now the Little Line's work is ended. There will be many a heartache among big boys and little at the passing of yet another "Toy" railway.

A New Cloth From Shetland

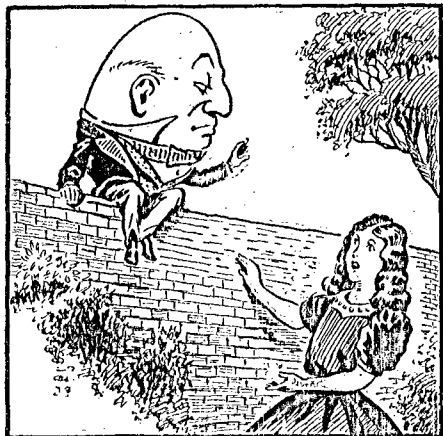
IN January, youthful Edward Morpheus, son of the director of one of London's oldest woollen merchants, will be going to stay in some of the Shetland Islands to supervise the making of a new kind of cloth which, it is hoped, will bring valuable dollars into this country.

The new Shetland cloth will be specially designed for America and spun and woven by hand by expert crofter craftsmen living on the islands. A yard will weigh only eleven ounces. The inhabitants of the Shetland Isles—

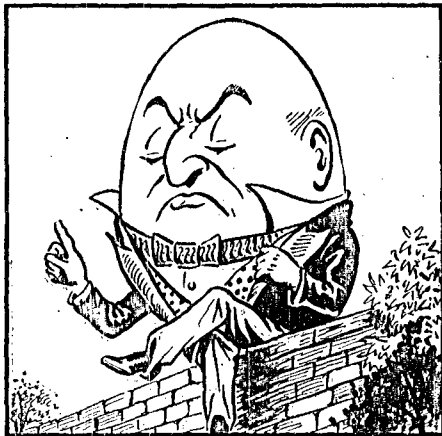
only 20 of over 100 islands are inhabited—are proud of their ancestors, the ancient Norsemen.

The Shetland sheep, like these far northern islands, are very small; they are claimed to be the smallest in the world. But they produce some of the world's finest wool. The best quality comes not from their backs, as would be expected, but from the neck, where there is little muscular exertion. It is really the result of their poor feeding, for life on the rough, inhospitable isles, is hard and rigorous.

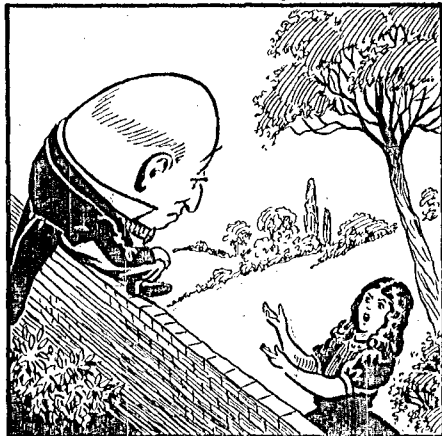
THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS—Lewis Carroll's Delightful Fantasy, Told in Pictures



Humpty Dumpty had puzzled Alice by asking what her name meant. "Must a name mean something?" she said. "Of course," he replied. "Mine means the shape I am—and a handsome shape it is, too. With a name like yours you might be any shape." Not wishing to begin an argument, Alice asked, "Don't you think you'd be safer down on the ground?" He growled. "Of course I don't!"



"Why, if ever I did fall off," he went on, "which there's no chance of—but if I did fall," he continued solemnly, "the King has promised me—ah, you may turn pale if you like! The King has promised me to . . ." "To send all his horses and all his men," Alice interrupted. "Now I declare that's too bad!" cried Humpty Dumpty in a passion. "You've been listening at doors and down chimneys!"



"I haven't, indeed!" replied Alice gently. "How old are you?" Humpty Dumpty asked next. "Seven years and six months," said Alice. "An uncomfortable sort of age," he remarked. "Now if you'd asked my advice, I'd have said, 'Leave off at seven,' but it's too late now." Alice exclaimed, "One can't help growing older!" He retorted, "One can't, perhaps, but two can."



To change the subject Alice said, "What a beautiful belt you've got on—at least, a beautiful cravat—no, a belt, I mean—oh, I beg your pardon!" Humpty Dumpty looked thoroughly offended. "It is a most—provoking—thing," he said, "when a person doesn't know a cravat from a belt! It's a cravat, an un-birthday present." Puzzled, Alice asked, "What is a un-birthday present?"

In Next Week's Instalment Humpty Dumpty Tells a Very Peculiar Story

Philip Mensah Joins the Zoo

By Our Own Correspondent

MOST of the animals which come to the London Zoo from abroad are caught in their native haunts by experienced British collectors—men of middle age whose skill matches their nerve and endurance. Now, for the first time, the Zoological Society has a very young collector operating for them. He is Philip Mensah, a 21-year-old West African native who used to be head boy on the staff of Mr G. S. Cansdale, London Zoo's newly-appointed superintendent.

Before giving up his post last March with the West African Forestry Service (when he himself caught and sent many reptiles to Regent's Park), Mr Cansdale arranged for Philip Mensah to continue the work of collecting and sending livestock. And the other day the first of young Mensah's consignments arrived. It included two Gaboon vipers, a ten-foot python, a four-foot black-and-white cobra, and many smaller reptiles.

Catching Snakes

The snakes—the first ever collected for the Zoo by an African boy—are now on exhibition at Regent's Park.

Naturally, no one was more pleased at their safe arrival than Mr Cansdale, who told me a little about Philip Mensah which I think may interest C.N. readers.

"Philip was about 18 when I first employed him about three years ago," he said. "He was then a ward-boy working in an R.A.F. hospital. He knew nothing about reptiles, or how to catch them. But he was a promising lad, exceptionally intelligent, so I took him on my staff and gave him thorough training, both in the catching of reptiles and how to pack them for transit.

"Today, he is operating around Kumasi, the capital of the Ashanti Province, and will, I hope, be sending us consignments regularly from now on.

"Most of his snakes are caught through his local connections—these West African chaps have hosts of friends. His pals report to him that a certain snake has been caught in a trap, whereupon Mensah goes and gets it for us, instead of allowing the reptile to be killed."

Rats Attack Elephants

The "rat problem" at the Zoo has been sharply accentuated recently by the arrival of several of the vermin in the gorilla house, where live, temporarily, the two young Indian elephants, Rancee and Maneki. Driven in by the cold, the intruders have taken refuge in the roof. But each night they come down into the house and start gnawing the feet of the elephants as they lie sleeping!

The Zoo has been quick to take counter measures. No fewer than 30 traps has been set, and every evening also the keepers paint the elephants' feet with Stockholm tar, a substance with a taste that rats abominate.

"The part of the foot attacked is the soft cartilaginous growth which forms the sole," a Zoo official said. "If the attacks were allowed to continue there would ensue first tenderness, then lameness! But we are confident of being able to stop these ghoulish raids before such results occur."

C. H.

THE CIRCUS THROUGH THE CENTURIES

BEHIND the glitter and glamour, the clowning and breath-taking spectacles, of the circus of today lies over two thousand years of entertainment history.

The first circuses of which we have records were, alas, performances upon which we look back with horror and disgust. Christianity and the growth of kindness to our fellow men and animals have changed all that.

Centuries before the birth of Christ the Romans flocked in their thousands to see combats between wild beasts. Lion fought lion and huge leopards were matched against each other.

But even this was not exciting enough for the Roman mobs. Accordingly, picked men were matched against the beasts. On one occasion, indeed, Julius Caesar turned 400 lions loose at once—to be destroyed by his archers and javelin throwers.

The circus buildings of Roman times were gigantic structures, surrounded on the outside by great colonnades, shops, and galleries. The largest of these buildings—the Circus Maximus—was built and rebuilt by the Caesars until it measured 2000 feet long and 650 feet wide, holding 250,000 spectators. Within it were specially-constructed canals on which real vessels could float so that naval engagements could be imitated.

What Pepys Saw

Many of the present-day circus acts were being performed in Britain in medieval days. There were travelling jugglers, tumblers and balancers, performing dogs, bears and monkeys. Such diversions were usually staged on the village green or in the courtyard of some wayside inn. In the 17th century Pepys made this entry in his diary: "To Bartholo-

mew Fair, and there saw several sights; among others, the mare that tells money and many things to admiration."

The Father of the English Circus was an ex-sergeant of the Light Horse Cavalry—Philip Astley. He was an expert trick-rider, and in 1770 he erected a wooden building in Westminster Bridge Road, London, and staged the first real circus performance consisting of acrobatics, riding displays, and comic "knock-about" acts with chairs and ladders. The show was a great success and this simple circus was followed by the building of 19 others, including Astley's Royal Amphitheatre, which became world-famous.

Five-Year-Old Trainer

No mention of circus history would be complete without reference to the great "Lord" George Sanger. Showmanship was in his blood for his father, James, had started a circus in 1821. At the age of five George was training canaries to ride in a coach, mice to climb up poles, and hares to jump through hoops and play drums. The first Sanger Circus opened at King's Lynn in 1854, and proved a great success. So much so, that in 1871 he and his brother John were wealthy enough to buy up Astley's famous Amphitheatre. It was not long before the wagon wheels of the Sanger show were touring the roads of Europe, and Kings and Queens were among the patrons.

The first great Olympia Circus was staged in 1920 by the late Bertram Mills, and now ranks among the grandest spectacles of its kind in the world.

Wales Clocks In

OVER 8000 clocks and watches are being made each week at Ystradgynlais in South Wales, not far from Swansea. The deft hands of 420 Welsh girls have been trained to manipulate the tiny wheels and springs which go to make small watches and clocks, an industry which Britain is now trying to rebuild.

For two centuries Britain was a country skilled in the making of clocks, but Switzerland later won a large part of the market. Now the attempt is being made to win back the market again. When all the machinery has arrived, wrist watches will be produced at the

Welsh factory at the rate of over two million a year.

The pocket watch now being made has 82 parts, 70 of them different, and many are so tiny that they can hardly be seen. Every watch undergoes 390 operations before it reaches the packing shed.

Here in this green valley are three factories which not only are giving Wales a reputation for the cleverness of its girls, but also a new industry. Many of the men employed are disabled miners who also help to make the leather straps and the material in which the watches are packed.

TWO ARCHBISHOPS

It is proposed to establish in Canterbury Cathedral two beautiful memorials to two great Archbishops of Canterbury; Cosmo Gordon Lang, who was Archbishop from 1928 to 1942, and his successor, William Temple, who died in 1944.

Close to William Temple's memorial is to be something he would have loved—a lectern on which four open Bibles will be placed every day, and, above the lectern, a globe showing the positions of every branch of the Anglican Church throughout the world. In cupboards below the lectern will be copies of the Bible and Liturgy in many different languages.

That a spot in Canterbury Cathedral should be dedicated to the Church's work overseas was ever William Temple's wish, and now this spot is to adjoin his memorial in the Chapel of St John in the South Transept. This shrine within a shrine will be visited by bishops and priests of every race and tongue.

Archbishop Lang's memorial is to be in the beautiful old Chapel of St Stephen, in the North-East Transept.

The establishment of these places of rest and beauty will depend on sufficient funds being raised. Contributions can be sent to The Archdeacon of Canterbury, 29 The Precincts, Canterbury.

BSA facts on STRENGTH, SPEEDINESS AND SMARTNESS



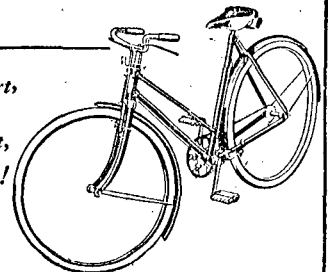
STRENGTH Matt McGrath, who stood 6ft. in height, and weighed 17st. 10 lb., threw a 56 lb. weight 40 ft. 6 in.!



SPEED In 1937, S. C. Wooderson (Great Britain) ran the mile in 4 minutes, 6.6 seconds!



SMARTNESS The Coldstream Guards were formed in 1659. They are renowned for their smartness.



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Selection gladly sent for inspection. 10 PARKSTONE AVENUE, BATES WEST PARK, LEEDS, 6.

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THE BRAN TUB

THE GUIDE

It was his first trip on the Underground.

"Does this train stop at Oxford Circus?" he asked a fellow passenger.

"Yes," was the reply. "Just watch me, and get off one station before I do."

What Am I?

My first is in Berry but not in Fruit;

My second's in Teal but not in Coot;

My third is in Deer but not in Hare;

My fourth is in Grizzly but not in Bear;

My fifth is in Otter but not in Rat;

My sixth is in Shrew but not in Cat.

My whole spells an animal that is found

In a tunnelled home deep underground.

Answer next week

Pithy Proverb

POVERTY is the mother of all arts.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

A Tight Embrace. Helping to erect a fence in the paddock, something odd about one of the posts drew Don's attention. A spiral groove in the bark ran from one end of the post to the other.

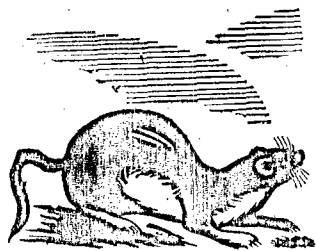
"Apparently, the tree from which this post was cut had been victimised by honeysuckle, which is a parasitic plant," explained Farmer Gray. "Sometimes a vine will entwine its host so tightly that the bark of the tree grows around its visitor. When the vine is stripped off the tell-tale groove is exposed. Honeysuckle is also known as Woodbine. There are several varieties of this beautiful climbing plant."

BEDTIME CORNER

Stanley the Stoat

STANLEY the Stoat was born in a hole in an old stone wall on a northern hillside. By the time he was old enough to live on his own he had grown very proud of his glossy, light brown coat, for it so matched the undergrowth where he hunted that it was very difficult for his enemy, the Hawk, to see him.

All the summer and autumn Stanley had hunted the rats and mice who lived round about the cornfields, but now the snow had come most of them had gone down into the valley to live at the mill, where



they stole the corn and sheltered from the cold. So Stanley decided to go after them.

It was a long way down to

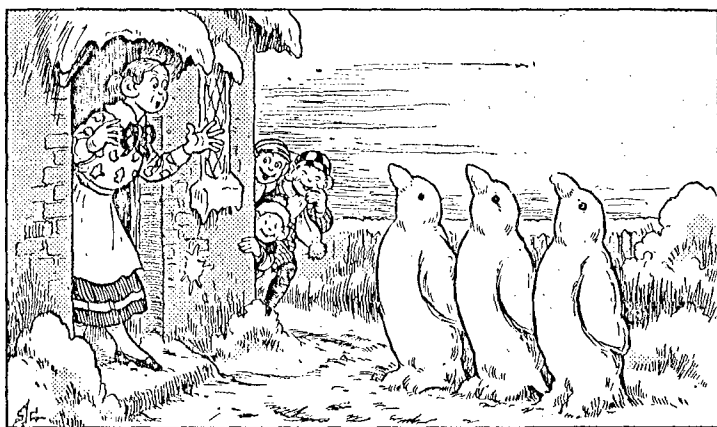
the mill, over open, snow-covered fields, and Stanley's brown coat now showed up brightly against the white ground. Every morning when he started off, Hawk seemed to be on the prowl; and many hairbreadth escapes he had. Every night it snowed, so he couldn't travel then.

After a week of this, Stanley said to himself: "I'll have to stay up here and find what food I can," and he began his morning wash rather miserably. But all at once he noticed that he had a lot of white hairs in his coat, so he washed harder than ever in case something was wrong.

But it made no difference. And after days of licking, and not much luck with hunting, Stanley found that every bit of his coat was white, except for the black tip of his tail.

Happily then he started off for the mill. The Hawk never spotted him travelling over the snow now, so white was he; and soon Stanley the Ermine was ridding the mill of those wicked rat and mice thieves.

Jacko Proves His Point



JACKO was very proud of his three snow-penguins. "Deceive anyone," he boasted. But Chimp was not convinced. Finally Jacko agreed to put the issue to test by enlisting Mother Jacko's unwitting aid. They knocked on the door, then dodged round the corner. Mother Jacko came out, blinking in the strong glare. "Well, bless me," she cried. "You poor things, you look half frozen." At this Jacko completely gave the game away by bursting into laughter. But he had proved his point.

RING IN 1949!

Have you made your resolutions? All should make their contributions.

Persevere with all your schemes; Plod along your trail of dreams. You are young, life lies ahead; Now's the time new paths to tread.

Every moment, every hour Wait upon your growing power. Youth can forge a way of glory; Each and all must build that story.

All good fortune, friend, be thine. Ring in 1949!

Other Worlds

In the evening Uranus is in the south-east. In the morning Venus is low in the south-east and Saturn is in the south-west. The picture shows the Moon at 7.30 on Tuesday morning, December 28.



Poor Percy

Poor Percy lost so many balls At golf that he decided To tie elastic to the things: Alas, he was misguided.

For when Poor Percy took his stance And drove toward a hollow, The ball flew off—then sped straight back, And Percy, the ball did swallow.

AMAZING

CRIED a man who was lost in a maze, "They tell me there's dozens of ways Of walking straight out, But I fear I must shout, For I've been here for seventeen days."

Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, December 29, to Tuesday, January 4.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 A Toytown Adventure. 5.30 For Your Bookshelf. North, 5.0 Stuff and Nonsense (5.0); More Chemical Magic. Scottish, 5.0 Music and a story; Scottish Children's Magazine. Welsh, 5.0 Overseas Postbag—Christmas greetings from all over the world; Christmas Diary.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Our Indignant Father Christmas—a story. 5.15 The Box of Delights (6). North, 5.0 Book Review. Welsh, 5.30 The Year that Nearly Got Lost—a story; The Billy Williams Trio.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Two Pairs of Wellington Boots. 5.15 Puss in Boots—a new play. North, 5.0 The Fountains Chalice.

SATURDAY, 5.0 A story: The Tom, Dick, and Harry Show—including Request Corner; Forfeits; Children in the News; A Guest Artist. Midland, 5.0 New Year Children's Party. Welsh, 5.0 New Year's Day—a story; History of the Calendar; Welsh Pirates—a talk. Junior Radio Record. West 5.0 The Burglar. 5.15 Mystery at Penmarth (Part 1).

SUNDAY, 5.0 Out into the World. N. Ireland, 5.0 Story and Song Exchange with Scotland. Scottish, 5.0 See N. Ireland.

MONDAY, 5.0 Bitty and the Bears—a serial story. 5.15 Records; The Schoolboys' Own Exhibition. 5.35 Little People from an Artist's Pen—a discussion between Eric Gillett and David Hand. North, 5.0 Christmas Show (Part 1); Forthcoming Programmes. Scottish, 5.15 Songs; On Keeping a Diary. 5.25 Nature Scrapbook.

TUESDAY, 5.0 Riquet of the Tuft—a play. North, 5.0 A New Horace Hedgehog story; Four in Hand; A Competition; Current Affairs.

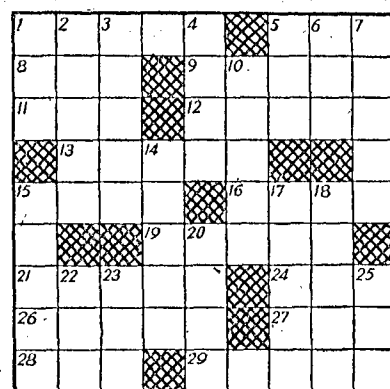
Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 An inn. 5 A kind of sack. 8 Chopper. 9 To make reparation. 11 To blend. 12 Angry. 13 Where milk is kept. 15 A joke. 16 A wise man. 19 To penetrate. 21 A blaze. 24 A quick smart blow. 26 Leader. 27 Solid water. 28 Thus far. 29 Fragrant.

Reading Down. 1 Cured pork. 2 A compound of oxygen with another element. 3 Largest state of U.S.A. 4 Wild animal's resting-place. 5 A large snake. 6 An industrious insect. 7 Large swimming birds. 10 A rendezvous. 14 Scraps of news. 15 Colloquial term for a moment. 17 An eagle's nest. 18 Favour. 20 Snares. 22 To rest horizontally. 23 Skill. 25 An animal friend.

Answer next week

The Children's Newspaper, January 1, 1949



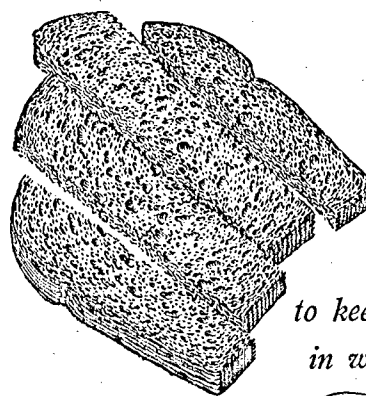
HEAR, HEAR!

"WHAT we want first and foremost," shouted the tub thumper, "is a working majority." "No, sir," came a reply, "what we want is a majority working."

As Handsome Does

LADY (in art gallery): I hear you have a beautiful Constable? New attendant: I don't know, Ma'am—unless it's Herbert here—he isn't bad looking.

The children are eating more Hovis and honey . . .



to keep their strength up in winter weather

Hovis

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